

Version with markings to show changes made.

IN THE CLAIMS:

48. (Amended) An apparatus for marking and accessing bookmarks within a voice message comprising:
 - a. a storage media to store the voice message;
 - b. a processing unit coupled to the storage media to automatically search the voice message for a predetermined content and automatically bookmark located predetermined content within the voice message; and
 - c. a user interface coupled to the processing unit to access the voice message at the bookmark.

55. (Amended) A method of bookmarking a voice message comprising:
 - a. automatically searching the voice message for a predetermined content [within the voice message];
 - b. locating the predetermined content; and
 - c. automatically bookmarking the predetermined content at a first bookmark location with a first bookmark.

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth fully below. Prior to this Office Action, Claims 48-63 were pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 48-63 are rejected. Claims 48 and 55 are amended. Thus, Claims 48-63 are currently pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 48-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,185,527 to Petkovic et al. (hereinafter “Petkovic”). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Petkovic teaches a system and method for classifying and indexing audio streams to support subsequent retrieval, gisting, summarizing, skimming, and general searching for content contained within the audio stream. Petkovic teaches receiving an audio stream, dividing the audio stream into successive intervals, and then dividing each interval into one or more segments (Petkovic, col. 7, lines 39-50). Each segment is classified as one of a predetermined set of audio events by determining audio features of each segment. The audio events include silence, speech, music, and speech on music (Petkovic, col. 7, lines 52-60). Each interval is then classified according to one of the audio events based on the classification of the segments within the interval. The presence of meta patterns in the audio stream are identified where a meta pattern is a predefined sequence of variously classified intervals (Petkovic, col. 7, line 61 to col. 8, line 21). A speech recognition engine 29 converts portions of the audio stream into text. The portions selected for conversion are selected based on particular types of identified meta patterns. The audio stream is then indexed using the recognized words from the speech recognition process for subsequent retrieval by an information retrieval system (Petkovic, col. 9, lines 5-9). The index is associated with, but separate from, the audio stream (Petkovic, col. 13, lines 45-51). A user can use the index to scroll through the intervals of the audio stream and select those he or she wishes to hear (Petkovic, col. 13, lines 51-54).

In Petkovic, there is no “search” of the audio stream for predetermined content. Instead, an attempt to recognize all words within the audio stream is made, and then all recognized words are indexed. As such, Petkovic requires a two-step process for retrieving specific content from within the audio stream. First, the audio stream is inclusively indexed to form an index separate from the audio stream. Second, content to be retrieved is specified and the index is searched for

instances of the specified content. Prior to indexing the audio stream, a “predetermined content”, such as a telephone number, an address, or a name, is not defined nor is a search performed of the audio stream to find instances of the predetermined content. Only after the audio stream is indexed is data retrieval performed. However, such a retrieval is performed by accessing and searching the index, not by directly accessing and searching the audio stream itself. Therefore, Petkovic teaches searching the index for a specific content. Petkovic does not teach searching the audio stream for a specific content.

Amended independent Claim 48 is directed to an apparatus for marking and accessing bookmarks within a voice message. The apparatus includes a storage media to store the voice message, a processing unit to automatically search the voice message for a predetermined content and automatically bookmark located predetermined content within the voice message, and a user interface to access the voice message at the bookmark. As discussed above, Petkovic does not teach automatically searching the voice message for a predetermined content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 48 is allowable over Petkovic.

Claims 49-54 are dependent on independent Claim 48. As stated above, Claim 48 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 49-54 are also in a condition for allowance.

Amended independent Claim 55 is directed to a method of bookmarking a voice message. The method includes automatically searching the voice message for a predetermined content, locating the predetermined content, and automatically bookmarking the predetermined content at a first bookmark location with a first bookmark. As discussed above, Petkovic does not teach automatically searching the voice message for a predetermined content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 55 is allowable over Petkovic.

Claims 56-63 are dependent on independent Claim 55. As stated above, Claim 55 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 56-63 are also in a condition for allowance.

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For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 4/30/03

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a)),

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 4-30-03 By: Jean D. Russer